

Back in 2015, I asked the Government Accountability Office to look at the gender makeup of corporate boards, and the results were discouraging, and they convinced me that we need to do more.

Women make up roughly 47 percent of the workforce, yet they hold roughly 29 percent of corporate board seats. The GAO found that even if we assume that equal proportions of women and men started joining boards starting right now, it would take more than 40 years for there to be an equal number of women and men in the corporate boardrooms.

We can't wait 40 years for parity. Something needs to change.

But let's also be clear: Increasing diversity on corporate boards is not just a moral issue; it is good for business, too. Study after study has shown that companies with greater diversity on their boards perform better financially, which is why investors want the companies they invest in to make diversity a priority.

In fact, I started working on this bill at the request of investors and investor organizations that wanted to more easily be able to track diversity on boards.

This legislation would help investors accomplish this by requiring public companies to report the voluntary, self-identified racial, ethnic, gender identity, and sexual orientation composition of their board members and executive officers in their annual proxy statement.

□ 1015

By putting this information in one place for investors, the bill would help investors to quickly sort the companies that do and do not have diverse boards.

The legislation would also establish a diversity advisory group at the SEC, which would study strategies to increase diversity on corporate boards because the truth is that making meaningful progress on board diversity is going to require a range of different policies in addition to the improved disclosures in this legislation.

The diversity advisory group at the SEC would continue to study these issues and would continue to make recommendations of best policies for the future.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort, support this bill, support our amendment, and vote "yes" on H.R. 1187.

HONORING MICKEY STEPHENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Georgia Representative Mickey Stephens for his remarkable career in the Georgia General Assembly.

Mr. Stephens is a native of Savannah and a proud graduate of Savannah State College. He served one term in

2002 and was reelected in 2014 to the Georgia House, representing the 165th District.

As an educator, he was a great asset to Savannah High School, Shuman Middle School, and John W. Hubert Middle School. Additionally, he served on the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Public Education and the Savannah Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Stephens is known throughout Georgia for his civic service, including his commitment to the community and his efforts in supporting the education of youth and adults.

Thank you, Mr. Stephens, for all of your hard work to make Savannah a better place to live. You are an inspiration to us all about giving back to your community.

REMEMBERING MICHAEL MAMALAKIS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to remember and honor Michael Mamalakis of Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on May 16 at the age of 37.

Michael was a lifelong resident of Savannah and a graduate of Jenkins High School.

He had many passions in his life, but one of his greatest passions was the Savannah Country Day School sports teams.

Michael spent 20 years inspiring athletes with his incredible spirit and unsurpassed devotion. He taught players and coaches alike that passion, effort, and dedication are far more important in sports than wins and losses.

In 2014, Michael was honored as Savannah Country Day School's Best of Preps Unsung Hero.

He touched many lives in the Savannah community, and his irreplaceable presence will be missed by all.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him, during this most difficult time.

CONGRATULATING DAVION MITCHELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Davion Mitchell for winning the 2021 NCAA men's basketball national championship with Baylor University.

Davion has never been a stranger to achieving success and making an impact on his team.

During his time at Liberty County High School in Hinesville, in the First Congressional District of Georgia, Davion led his team to their first State title in school history.

As a junior at Baylor University, Davion led Baylor in an impressive season that resulted in a win over Gonzaga in the national championship game.

Some of Davion's impressive accolades include the AP All-American Team, the All-Big 12 First Team, the 2021 All-Tournament Team, and the National Defensive Player of the Year.

Davion's long list of accomplishments stems from his countless hours of work and his determination to win.

I, along with the rest of the First Congressional District, congratulate you, Davion, on your achievements and know that you will continue to make us proud.

HONORING CARL HAMILTON ALEXANDER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor retired Chief of Police Carl Hamilton Alexander of Brunswick, Georgia, who peacefully passed away at the age of 72.

Chief Alexander was a man of strong character and deep devotion to his lifelong profession of public service.

He began his career in public service with the Glynn County Fire-Rescue in 1970, and he would eventually rise through the ranks of the police department to become chief of police.

Under his leadership, the Glynn County Police Department became the 14th nationally accredited agency in the State in 1994.

Chief Alexander modernized the county emergency radio system and brought computer technology into police vehicles.

Through every position he had, he worked to better his community and every life he touched. His commitment to Glynn County has changed countless lives, and we are forever grateful.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

HONORING MARCOS MUNOZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor my friend and activist Marcos Munoz, who lived a life of service and commitment to workers' rights.

Marcos migrated to the United States from Coahuila, Mexico, when he was 13 years old. He was looking to make money to help his mother and his siblings after his father left them.

He worked for a Texas rancher, who had him deported when Marcos asked for money he was owed after 5 months of backbreaking work.

When Marcos returned to the U.S. in his twenties, the abuse he experienced turned him into an activist, fighting for basic labor rights for farmworkers.

The late Cesar Chavez, leader of the United Farm Workers, recognized Marcos' leadership skills and asked him to lead efforts across the United States on behalf of the United Farm Workers union.

I met Marcos when he came to Chicago seeking support for the second grape boycott. I was a student at the University of Illinois at Chicago and learned a lot about labor organizing from him.

Marcos later made Chicago his home, settling in our neighborhood of Little Village, where he organized block clubs to create unity and elect representatives from the community.

He later became a steelworker, joined the United Steelworkers union, and spent his last years before retirement as manager of supplies and linen at Cook County Hospital.

Marcos passed away on May 15. I was lucky to call Marcos a mentor and a

friend. My wife, Evelyn, and I are thinking about his family during these difficult times.

May you be in glory, my brother.

SUPPORTING UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GARCÍA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARCÍA of California. Madam Speaker, mankind has existed on this beautiful blue marble that we call Earth for nearly 200,000 years. Yet, just 118 years ago, we learned to fly in our own planet's atmosphere.

As a nation, we are thirsty for something to rally behind, something that unifies us, something that we can all be invested in, be intrigued by, be impassioned about, and something to be positive about.

There isn't a better movement to get behind than our Nation's modern space program. Some question the value of spending precious taxpayer dollars to overcome our planet's gravity to go to space, but those people aren't seeing the big picture.

In the early 1900s, many questioned the value of spending so much capital and risking so many lives in hopes of conquering flight, and now we can't imagine a world in which we don't have the luxury of modern aviation.

We had no idea that a little canvas glider flown on a beach in North Carolina would evolve into the modern fighter jet.

We have no choice but to think outside the box, think outside of our own solar system even, to make sure that we not only understand the answers to our most profound questions but also discover new questions for tomorrow that we can't even fathom asking today.

We have no choice but to better understand the extensions of God's creations, to know if we are alone in the universe, to know if there is a second home somewhere out there beyond our sights and imaginations.

Failing to press on is a disservice to previous generations who have sacrificed so much and worked so hard to get us here today. Failing to press on is a disservice to current and future generations who benefit from our progress today.

You see, space is a domain where we, as a nation, can thrive, but it is also a domain where we can be vulnerable and susceptible to the malicious intent of foes such as China, Russia, and Iran. There are existential threats right now in space.

Any decision on our part to divest from this adventure will not dissuade our foes from advancing their own space programs. It would only serve to highlight a massive strategic vulnerability and potentially create capability gaps that will be impossible to fill in the future.

A path of divestment is an unforgiving one and the damages irrep-

arable. While we as a nation currently hold an advantage in space, our lead, like the nearly 118 years that separates today from the Wright brothers' first flight in 1903, can vanish in the blink of an eye.

In this new frontier, time is as precious as money. Now is not the time to slow down.

As big as space is, we must, as a nation, be bigger, be bigger as a united team. As a nation, we must recognize that this investment in our future is more than science and curiosity; it is more than resolve and perseverance; and it is more than just discovery and challenges. It is about survival, excellence, and inspiration; it is about national security; and it is about planetary security against threats that are not slowing down. It is about a new golden era for the American space program.

As a result of the construction of the International Space Station, we have not had all humans together on this planet for over 20 years. That is remarkable to think about.

In 2020, SpaceX, a critical commercial partner in our quest for low-cost and frequent space travel, averaged one rocket launch every 2 weeks. That is 26 launches in a year or almost three times the number of flights that the space shuttle did in its best year.

Earlier this year, NASA successfully landed a JPL Mars rover on the Martian surface for the fifth time. We were the first and only nation to have done this until recently when the UAE and China just landed on Mars.

In April, we flew a helicopter in the Martian atmosphere. No other nation has done that, but the United States now has.

In 2024, we plan to once again land Americans on the Moon and further make history with the first woman on the Moon. Still, to this day, no other nation has done that.

During our lifetimes, we will land Americans on Mars. No other nation has done that. The U.S. will be the first.

As Americans, we are, in fact, exceptional. Our successes in space are testimonies to this. We should take pride in those successes, take pride in our exceptionalism, especially in the space domain.

In 1962, JFK had to inspire us with his moonshot speech. Today, we have no excuses not to be inspired. We in Congress have no excuses to not support these exceptional programs in earnest and with pride. We have no choice.

URGING SENATE TO PASS FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge the Senate to pass the For the People Act, or H.R. 1.

This urgently needed legislation would fight corruption and the over-

whelming influence of money in politics by strengthening ethics rules and reforming our campaign finance system.

It would protect the foundation of our democracy, the right to vote, at a time when it is under attack in many States.

I am proud that my home State of Illinois is not one of them. In fact, our legislature recently voted to expand ballot access. But for those who aren't lucky enough to live in Illinois, H.R. 1 is a much-needed defense against widespread voter suppression.

As the Senate considers these long-overdue reforms, I rise today, here in the House of Representatives, to insist that representation matters.

That is Congress' role in our representative democracy: to represent the American people. If the Members elected to this Chamber don't represent the diversity of the American people's backgrounds and their experiences, we can't do a good job of representing their perspectives and advocating for their needs.

Consider that women make up just over a quarter of the 117th Congress, and that is the highest percentage it has ever been. We see the effects of this lack of diversity in the way our government works for women, or, rather, the fact that it doesn't work for women.

Women have been hit harder than men by job loss during the pandemic. This is partly because women still do more childcare than men, and the pandemic triggered a childcare crisis. But this doesn't come out of nowhere. It is a result of chronic failure to address areas that disproportionately impact women.

Because women haven't had a seat at the table, our needs have been sidelined. As a result, everybody loses, not just women. All Americans are part of an economy that depends on childcare to function.

It is no coincidence that the Biden-Harris administration's bold plan to invest in human infrastructure comes just months after our first female Vice President was sworn in. This is just one of many instances in which everybody benefits when different perspectives and life experiences are represented in our elected leadership.

When we talk about candidate diversity, we are talking about growing our economy, improving childcare, and strengthening our infrastructure. Good policy starts with good representation.

H.R. 1 will give Americans the government we deserve by enabling us to elect people who truly represent us.

One of the most important provisions in the bill for improving representation is the creation of a small-donor public financing program.

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In the States and cities where it is already in use, public financing is popular because it empowers candidates to get their message out to voters, even if